

**Teaching Kids to Read: Basic Skills for Australian and NZ Parents and Teachers** (Fay Tran, Wilkins Farago, \$29.99 tpb, ISBN 9780980607055, August) ★★☆☆

*Teaching Kids to Read* is an important resource for teachers, tutors and parents of children with reading difficulties. While its core belief in the primacy of phonics may be contested by some educators, the author is clearly a voice of considerable experience and authority in her role as a teacher of children with reading problems. Interestingly, the book begins with the glossary. This is useful as it encourages the reader to understand specific terms about reading and its instruction upfront. There are comprehension and spelling strategies and resource lists at the end, as well as ways to teach reading to beginners, such as 'sounding out' and covering parts of the word. Unfortunately, the majority of the few recommended 'readers' are out of print. Much of the information in

this book is presented as case studies about children who have become successful readers following intervention, which makes it very encouraging and will inspire readers who recognise children in similar situations to give the methods described in this book a try. Importantly, the author also reminds us that reading to children is the most valuable thing we can do.

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